

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, line 3:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3 and ending on page 1, line 11 with the following replacement paragraph:

The invention relates to a card holding device having at least one guide and having a clamping unit with at least one first clamping element, which clamping unit clamps a card, which is to be held and has two mutually opposite flat faces, on one flat face in a manner controlled by the at least one guide when the clamping unit moves in relation to the at least one guide, in which case the clamping unit has at least one first elastic element with a first region and a second region, which element is guided indirectly or directly at the at least first region by means of the at least one guide, and clamps the card indirectly or directly by means of the at least one second region. A method for holding a card in a card holding device, in particular in a card holding device according to the invention, is also a subject of the invention.

Please insert the following paragraph on page 3, line 4:

European patent application EP 0 351 103 A2 has already disclosed an arrangement of the type mentioned in the introduction whose clamping device requires manual insertion and is not suitable for drawing in the card automatically because it would be too susceptible to the card being incorrectly positioned if it is not inserted properly. European patent application EP 1 118 958 A1 discloses an arrangement in which a smart card is pushed into a reader against a spring force and is blocked at the input end against projections which prevent the card from being ejected in a manner driven by spring force. The arrangement according to US patent US 5,912,446 also uses manual insertion and provides for a moving slide to press the smart card against the reading contacts during the manually driven insertion movement. None of these arrangements are suitable for an automatic drawing-in process. A device for automatically drawing-in a smart card is described in European patent application EP 0 468 145 A1, in which, in particular, the indicated device for tightly clamping the card during the automatic drawing-in process is not suitable for a flat construction on account of the large-scale design.

Please insert the following paragraph on page 3, line 12:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 12 and ending on page 3, line 17 with the following replacement paragraph:

According to the invention, the object is achieved by a card holding device of the type mentioned in the introduction, ~~in which the clamping unit has at least one elastic element which is guided indirectly or directly at at least one first region by means of the at least one guide, or clamps indirectly or directly by means of at least one second region.~~ appended claims.

Please insert the following paragraph on page 10, line 23:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following paragraph on page 11, line 7:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following Abstract of the Disclosure on new page 21:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A card holding device and method are disclosed, including a guide and a clamping unit that clamps a card in a guided manner. Sometimes the frictional connection is not established in the event of an unfavorable use of the device. An aim of the device and method is to reliably draw in and transport cards even in the event of an inappropriate operation of the device and unfavorable constraints. To this end, the clamping unit includes at least one first resilient element having a first area and a second area. This resilient element is guided indirectly or directly on the at least one first area by the guide and indirectly or directly clamps the card by the second area.